

REMARKS

Claims 1-25 and 27 are currently pending. Claims 26, 28, and 29, have been canceled and claims 23 and 27 have been amended. Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating that claims 1-15 are allowable, and that claims 17-22, 26 and 27 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claims and any intervening claims. Claims 16, 23-25, 28, and 29 were rejected.

Claims 16, 23-25, and 28-29, were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,743,091, issued to Penswick et al. ("Penswick").

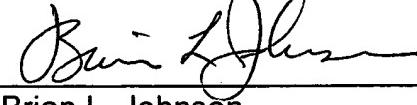
Regarding the rejection of claim 16, the Office Action states that the heater head 20 in Penswick has a planar top for receiving heat from a heat source. According to Webster's II New College Dictionary, "planar" means "flat." The Applicant respectfully traverses this statement by the Office Action and respectfully points out that in Penswick the heater head 20 has a curved top that is by definition not planar (hot space 24), which receives heat from heat source 18. Consequently, the Applicant respectfully asserts that claim 16 is allowable over Penswick. Claims 17-22 were indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form from their rejected base claim 16. Since claim 16 is now believed to be allowable, at this point claims 17-22 are also believed to be allowable without need of being rewritten.

Since the Office Action indicated that claim 26 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, claim 23 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 26 to put claim 23 in condition for allowance.

All of the claims remaining in the application are now believed allowable. Favorable consideration and a Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

If questions remain regarding this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (206) 628-7670.

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